

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Henrick K. Gille et al.
Serial No. : 09/546,097
Filed : April 10, 2000
Title : CUTTING AND CAUTERIZING SURGICAL TOOLS

Art Unit : 3732
Examiner : Hank Johnson

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed March 15, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1
--FIG. 4 diagrammatically illustrates an example of a cutting and cauterizing surgical tool 100. The surgical tool 100 includes a handle 120. For simplicity, the following discussion will assume that the tip 1 is coupled to the handle 120. However, the tip 50 or other similar tips can also be used.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2
--FIG. 5A illustrates the tip 1 in a fourth embodiment. In FIG. 5A, an electrode 200 slides parallel to the face 6, and across a surface 7 of the tip 1. The electrodes 10, in this embodiment, may be optional. FIG. 5B shows the tip 50 in a third embodiment. In FIG. 5B, the conductor 200 slides across a surface 55 of the tip 50. The tip 50 may optionally include the electrodes 65.--

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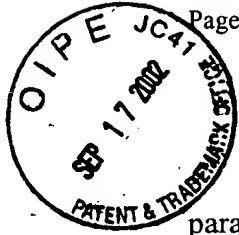
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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A3. ~~FIG. 8 shows an example of a push/pull device 204 for sliding the electrode. FIG. 8 shows the tip 1 coupled to the handle 120 with the integrated push/pull device 204. Alternatively, the tip 1 could be replaced with the tip 50 and also be used with the device 204. The device 204 includes a body 206 and a projection 208. The electrode 200 is coupled to a distal end 209 of the body 206. The contact electrode 130 is coupled to a proximal end 211 of the body 206. In this configuration, the contact electrode 130 and the electrode 200 are electrically coupled together inside the body 206, such that electrocautery energy can be delivered to the electrode 200.~~

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 24-27 without prejudice.

Claims 13-23 are withdrawn without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 29, 30, and 30 as follows:

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- A4 sub B1
- ~~1. (Amended) A surgical tool, comprising:
a tip having at least one mechanical cutting edge; and
at least one electrode attached to a non-mechanical cutting edge of the tip.~~
 2. (Unchanged) The surgical tool of claim 1, wherein the at least one electrode comprises one of titanium, platinum, copper, nickel, tin, gold, chromium, iron, and silver.
 - A5. 3. (Amended) The surgical tool of claim 1, wherein the at least one electrode comprises at least one wire rod, the wire rod having a thickness of about 0.6 mm or less.
 4. (Unchanged) The surgical tool of claim 1, wherein the tip further comprises a cavity and wherein the at least one electrode comprises a wire rod embedded in the cavity.